

REMARKS

The examiner objects to the abstract [sic] of the specification.

The application includes claims 1-15 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner objects to claims 5, 6 and 12-15 because of informalities.

The examiner rejects claims 4-6 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention.

The examiner rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wright (U.S. Patent 5,909,450).

The applicants amend claims 3-4 and 7-8, add new claims 16-17, and cancel claims 5-6 and 12-15 without prejudice.

The application remains with claims 1-4, 7-11 and 16-17 after entering this amendment.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Specification Objections

Although the examiner indicates objection to the abstract, it appears from the substance of the objection that the examiner meant to object to the summary of the invention. As such, the applicants have amended the summary of the invention to clearly describe that which they recite in the claims.

Claim Objections

The applicants cancel claims 5-6 and 12-15 to obviate the examiner's objections.

Claim Rejections Under § 112

The examiner rejects claims 4-6 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

The applicants cancel claims 5-6 and 12-15 to obviate the examiner's rejection.

Claim Rejections Under § 102

The examiner rejects claims 1-15 as old over Wright. The applicants disagree for the reasons that follow.

Wright discloses a tool and method to reconfigure pin connections between a device under test (DUT) and a tester. In Wright, a multiplexer accesses a database of desired connections for different downbonds between the DUT and the tester. Wright's tool automatically makes the correct connections for each downbond without manual intervention by a user.

The present application, in stark contrast, describes a semiconductor integrated circuit capable of generating and selectively providing a number of data output signals to data output pins. Unlike Wright, the present application allows the device to have fewer pins than the integrated circuit.

The examiner failed to reference specific portions of Wright's disclosure for each of the elements recited. As best understood by the applicants, the examiner alleges Wright's MUX 300 discloses the recited semiconductor integrated circuit and its associated method.

Claim 1 recites *an output selection circuit with at least a normal mode and a test mode*. The examiner points broadly to Wright's column 3-4, lines 52-67, and figures 3-4. Nowhere does Wright describe that its MUX 300 includes an output selection circuit with the recited normal and test mode. Wright's tool operates as follows. "First, tester 320 sends signal A to MUX pin 3. MUX 300 transfers the signal to MUX pin 6 as specified in the database. DUT pin 2 then receives signal A from MUX pin 6."

And claim 1 recites *where a first group of output signals are provided to a first group of data output pins in a first test cycle of the test mode and where a second group of output signals are provided to a second group of data output pins during a second test cycle of the test mode*. The recited test mode, therefore, has a first and a second cycle. Nowhere does Wright indicate that its MUX 300 operates responsive to a test mode, much less a test mode with two distinct cycles that serve to selectively provide data output signals to data output pins. Note that MUX 300 has no need for such selective output since it has more pins than the DUT, allowing it to provide all necessary test signals in parallel or simultaneously.


Conclusion

The applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Customer No. 20575

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Graciela G. Cowger
Registration No. 42,444

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 222-3613